

Kindergarten

What does it mean to be ready for kindergarten? There are a combination of qualities and skills for most kindergartens. Your child may have accomplished many of them and may be working on others. Here are some important areas to consider:

Socially and Emotionally Ready

- Gets along with others, shares, takes turns, and cooperates
- Understands others' feelings
- Has a positive self-image
- Practices self-control
- Follows simple rules
- Can do basic self-care tasks independently
- Is curious and motivated to learn

Language Ready

- Expresses thoughts, ideas, and emotions in words
- Speaks understandably in complete sentences
- Looks at pictures and tells a story
- Identifies some letters and letter sounds
- Recognizes some rhyming sounds
- Is able to listen and follow directions

To Do List

1. Register at the school your child will attend.
2. Attend orientation/ Information meetings.
3. Visit the school and classroom with your child.
4. Meet and introduce your child to the teacher and staff.
5. Provide information about your child to the staff and discuss your concerns.
6. Talk with your child about new experiences such as riding the bus, eating lunch at school, or after school care.
7. Listen to and discuss your child's concerns.

Physically Ready

- Cuts with scissors
- Holds and uses writing and drawing tools correctly
- Prints first name in upper and lower case letters
- Buttons, snaps, and zips clothing
- Assembles puzzles
- Bounces and catches a ball
- Hops, jumps, and balances

Intellectually Ready

- Sorts similar objects by size, color, and shape
- Counts to ten or more and recognizes some numbers
- Counts ten or more objects
- Knows full name, address, phone number
- Understands causes and effects

If you are unsure if your child should go to kindergarten, talk to your child's preschool teachers. They know his/her strengths and weaknesses and can help you evaluate if your child is developmentally ready. It's your decision.